



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Released on May 12, 2006

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### **Washington's 2006 Winter Wheat Production Second Highest in U. S.**

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 12, 2006--Winter wheat production in Washington in 2006 is expected to total 122.4 million bushels, 1 percent above last year's crop and the highest production since 2000's 131.4 million bushels. At this level, Washington's production would be second only to Kansas. Based on May 1 conditions, ample showers during March and April 2006 improved topsoil moisture supplies for Washington growers. While harvested acres are unchanged at 1.80 million acres from 2005, yields are expected to average 68.0 bushels per acre, 1 bushel above both last year and two years ago.

Dry weather in Texas has resulted in wheat production forecasted at the lowest since 1971 and acres harvested for grain at the lowest since 1925. Likewise, in Oklahoma, there was no measurable rainfall from the end of October through the first of March. Average yield per acre for winter wheat in 2006 is expected to be in the 20's in both states.

"As of May 1, 2006, moisture supplies are excellent with topsoil moisture averaging at least 87 percent," said Christine Messer, Director of NASS's Washington Field Office.

Idaho growers are expected to harvest 710,000 acres, 20,000 less than last year. With yields averaging 90.0 bushels per acre, production would reach 63.9 million bushels, 4 percent less than 2005. In Oregon, harvested acres are expected to fall 20,000 acres and yields are expected to decline 6 bushels per acre, resulting in production 12 percent below last year. The combined Pacific Northwest winter wheat crop is forecast at 228.1 million bushels, 3 percent below last year's crop.

Winter wheat production in the United States is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage is down 14 percent from the previous year compared with the Soft Red Winter harvested acreage up 17 percent.

### **Washington's May 1 Hay Stocks Dip 22 Percent**

The quantity of hay stored on Washington farms on May 1, 2006 totaled 250,000 tons compared with 322,000 tons in 2005 and 470,000 tons in 2004. Lower production in 2005 contributed to the lower stocks.

Idaho reported 375,000 tons of hay stored on May 1, 2006, 30 percent less than 2005 and 16 percent below two years ago. Oregon's hay stocks stood at 210,000 tons, compared with 362,000 in 2005 and 371,000 in 2004.

The combined Pacific Northwest stocks totaled 835 million tons compared with 1,219 tons in 2005. Nationally, all hay stored on farms totaled 21.3 million tons, down 23 percent from the previous year.

### Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2005 and Forecasted May 1, 2006

State	Planted	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
		1,000 Acres		Bu/Acre		1,000 Bushels	
<b>Washington</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>120,600</b>	<b>122,400</b>
Idaho	750	730	710	91.0	90.0	66,430	63,900
Oregon	800	780	760	61.0	55.0	47,580	41,800
<b>Pacific NW</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>234,610</b>	<b>228,100</b>
Kansas	10,200	9,500	9,400	40.0	34.0	380,000	319,600
Oklahoma	5,800	4,000	3,100	32.0	22.0	128,000	68,200
Texas	5,700	3,000	1,300	32.0	27.0	96,000	35,100
Nebraska	1,750	1,760	1,650	39.0	38.0	68,640	62,700
Ohio	990	830	960	71.0	69.0	58,930	66,240
Colorado	2,400	2,200	2,000	24.0	27.0	52,800	54,000
Montana	2,000	2,100	1,950	45.0	42.0	94,500	81,900
10 States	32,240	26,700	23,630	41.7	38.8	1,113,480	915,840
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>41,404</b>	<b>33,794</b>	<b>31,177</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>1,499,129</b>	<b>1,322,831</b>



### Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2004-2006 1/

Year	Winter					Spring					
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Hard Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Durum	Total
	1,000 Bushels										
2004	856,211	380,305			262,918	525,467			43,451	89,893	2,158,245
2005	929,820	309,021	25,279	235,009	260,288	466,587	4,530	33,339	37,869	101,105	2,104,690
2006	714,874	356,222	21,713	230,022	251,735						

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey and administration data.

2/ Individual Hard White and Soft White estimates are not available prior to 2005.